



Saturday

Nov. 20, 2004

Jamaican

Canadian

Centre

995 Arrow Rd.

Toronto, ON

# **JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION**

## **Scholarship Awards**





## President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and members of the JCA, I thank you for participating in tonight's scholarship awards ceremony. The Scholarship Program is significant because it equips our youth with an added arsenal as they venture out into a sometimes crude world. While the distractions are many, the aid is few.

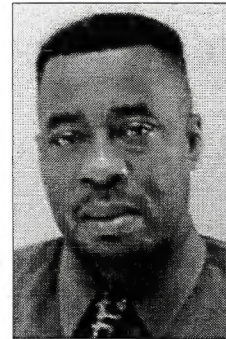
The JCA is in the business of building minds. We understand and embrace the concept of Working Together, Growing Together. The JCA Scholarship Fund was born on this premise. Fair access to education is and continues to be a challenge in our community and that is why great focus must be placed on closing the gap. The scholarship fund takes a momentous leap in this direction and has seen significant growth in the last couple years. We intend to continue on this trend and we are confident that many will join us in our efforts.

Tonight I say thanks to all scholarship fund contributors for believing in us, our youth and the cause. You have added fuel to the blazing fire searching for knowledge. I further congratulate the award winners. You are the hope for tomorrow. As you continue with your studies, keep in mind that education is not to be restricted to the classroom and textbooks. Read outside of this environment, observe your surroundings, learn from your experiences, and everyday try to be better than your previous self. This is the true essence of education. And finally to the organizers of the ceremony and all the hard work leading up to tonight, you are remarkable role models for our community.

In true JCA spirit, let us continue to care and share. Let us continue to invest in minds and empower our youth. God Bless!

**David Griffiths,**  
JCA President

## Message from the Education Committee Chair



**Sylvanus Thompson**

The Jamaican Canadian Association Scholarship Program was established to provide financial assistance to worthy students from the Caribbean/African communities, who are pursuing post-secondary studies in Ontario Universities and Colleges. This is in keeping with the Association's mandate of community outreach and responding to the educational needs of the community.

The JCA would not be able to achieve this mandate without the generous support from the various scholarship donors, sponsors and others who made significant contributions to the scholarship fund. We are therefore very grateful for this collective generosity and anticipate even greater participation from the wider community in the future.

I wish to extend hearty congratulations to all the applicants especially those who are being awarded scholarships for 2004. In addition to outstanding academic achievements the recipients demonstrated leadership qualities and their commitment to community development through volunteering and community participation activities. The JCA is therefore very pleased to recognize and award such excellence which points towards a very bright future for our community.

It is often said that our children are our future. By investing in them through ventures as this scholarship program we can guarantee that future.

God bless you all





## Eva Smith Bursary

On December 30, 1993, Toronto lost a dedicated and committed Community Worker. Eva Smith, who battled cancer for many months, has left a mark on the lives of many.

In her native Jamaica Eva worked as a postal clerk and then as a dental technician, which she trained for in the USA. However, although a trained dental technician, it was difficult for visible minorities to come to Canada. In 1956, Eva saw her opportunity to migrate from Jamaica to Canada through a domestic contract.

In 1958, Eva married Edward Smith, a native of Bermuda. They had two daughters, Edeva and Christine who now have children of their own.

During the years that Eva was raising her children, she continued to volunteer in the community. She also continued to prepare for her community service career by attending Ryerson Polytechnical Institute on a part time basis in the social service and community development areas.

Eva later worked with the JCA, North York Board of Education, Jane Finch area, L.E.A.P., Ujjama, Domestic Workers, P.A.C.E., just to name a few.

In 1958 the Eva Smith Bursary was established.

Other honours are Eva's Place Youth Shelter, which opened in 1994, followed by Eva's Phoenix and Eva's Satellite.

The physical Eva has departed but the spiritual being will live with us always.



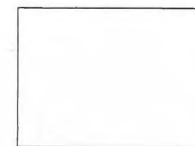
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## Recipient Of The Eva Smith Bursary



### Chistiana Ogbonnaya

Chistiana Ogbonnaya is currently enrolled at Centennial College in the Biological Technician - Industrial Microbiology program. This is a step on the path of achieving her goal to become a health care detective -uncovering and providing information from laboratory analyses that assist physicians in diagnosing and treating patients in conjunction with disease monitoring and prevention.

Her achievements and volunteer activities include a past member of the Black History Ottawa youth committee as well as SACJAM, an organization formed to help young adults participate in community activities. Christianna was a member of the Black Unity, a group formed to help youth express their creative abilities. She also co-chaired the Change Your Future committed funded by the Ottawa Board of Education that encouraged youth to explore their options for future education and career advancements. Her most recent volunteer work includes being the Administrative Assistant for Victoria's Quilt Canada responsible for donating quilts to people struggling with cancer.



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### ERMA COLLINS: PROFILE

Prof. Erma Collins retired from George Brown College at the end of 1998, after 32 years of service, 27 years as a professor of English and 5 years as chairperson of the English and Liberal Studies Department at St. James Campus. She is the author of Brush Up Your English, a book she wrote to help college students fill in the gaps, in order to succeed with their post-secondary courses. From time to time, she has written newspaper articles as well. Some people in the JCA will remember the relief and renewal of self-worth that they felt when they read the spirited defence of the Black community that was written by Erma and published in The Toronto Star at the time of the Just Dessert killing in 1994, when the whole community was being vilified. Erma has a Teachers' Diploma from St. Joseph Teachers' College in Jamaica; a B.A. in English from the University of Manitoba; and a M.Ed. in Adult Education from the University of Toronto.

Volunteering in church, clubs, and her workplace was an integral part of Erma's life before immigrating to Canada in 1967; and since 1969, the year Erma joined the JCA, she has been volunteering non-stop in many capacities in the JCA and in other organizations such as the Black Education Project of the 70's; the Library of Black People's Literature of the 70's; the Bellevue Mental Hospital Project & African Famine Relief Committee of the 80's; and more recently, Women for P.A.C.E.; the Harry Jerome Awards Selection Committee; the Black Educators' Work Group; Advisory Committee on English as a Second Dialect Training; Community Advisory Group, Taking Action Against Hate Project, B'nai Brith Canada; the National Council of Jamaicans; the Scarborough North and Scarborough Agincourt Provincial Liberal Associations; the CNIB.

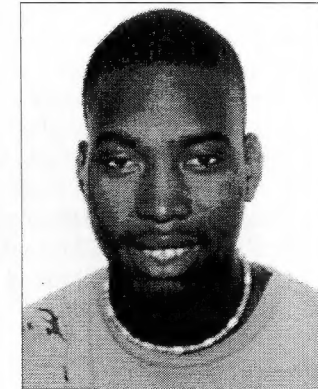
At the JCA, in addition to carrying out many a special project, Erma has been Chair of the Education Committee, Executive Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president, Chair of the Corporate Fundraising Committee, and Board Liaison with the Golf Committee.

In February of 2004, Erma was appointed a commissioner of Ontario's College and Education Relations Commissions

Erma's lifelong commitment to education and community building has motivated her to be a sponsor of a BBPA Harry Jerome Scholarship, beginning in 2001, and of a JCA scholarship, beginning in 2003.

Erma has received 18 awards of excellence or appreciation, including 5 from the JCA; a Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada (1993); the City of Scarborough Bicentennial Civic Award of Merit (1996); an Urban Alliance on Race Relations Award (1998); a Harry Jerome President's Award (2000); and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002). As well, for her professional achievements, she has been featured in 3 publications: Jamaican Canadians: A Commitment to Excellence (1987); Some Black Women: Profiles of Black Women in Canada (1993); and Who is Who in Black Canada (2002).

## Recipient Of The Erma Collins Scholarship



**Moiyan Johnson**

Moiyan is currently enrolled at the University of Waterloo, studying Life Sciences. Throughout his high school career, he took part in many extra curricular activities, as well as community activities. He was an active volunteer at a nursing facility, as well as food banks. His future goal is to attend medical school.

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## Dr. Ezra Nesbeth

Dr. Ezra Nesbeth is a graduate of University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto with varied and extensive experience in community and health programs. He has completed post-doctoral studies in health science and psychopathology in the United States. He worked as a consultant with UNESCO and WHO developing community health programs for various jurisdictions. He was head of clinical education at the Clinical Institute, Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto, consultant at the Clark Institute of Psychiatry and Assistant Professor, Applied Psychology (community health) at the University of Toronto. His experience spans a wide range of health promotion programs working in several Ontario hospitals and institutions and as a health consultant both domestically and internationally.

When Jamaica was devastated by hurricane Gilbert, Dr. Nesbeth raised thousands of dollars, medical supplies, and succeeded in getting Ontario Hydro to send to Jamaica several teams of engineers, technicians, and technical equipment to restore electricity to the island. Dr. Nesbeth also volunteered his time and went to Jamaica to assist in this effort for which he was commended by the Jamaican and Canadian Governments.

Dr. Nesbeth is a strong advocate of self-help programs within communities and the work place. When head of Employee Health, Ontario Power Generation, he recommended and convinced the Board of Directors of the corporation to recognize William Peyton Hubbard as one of Ontario Hydro's founders and to establish a scholarship in his name. William Payton Hubbard was Toronto's first black municipal politician and the city's first black to act as Mayor. Starting in 1992 annual scholarships of \$2,400 each, including summer employment, are offered to two black students studying Engineering/Science and Business/Technology.

Dr. Nesbeth donates generously to the Afro-Canadian community and the JCA. Recently he has donated a significant sum towards the establishment of a Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship. This scholarship will be administered by the JCA.

Dr. Nesbeth has established the Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship Foundation to provide scholarships to African-Caribbean-Canadian youth providing them with one other source of assistance to help offset the increasing cost of post secondary education. One of the goals of the foundation is to increase its financial resources so that it will be able to provide larger and more scholarships to a larger number of students. The scholarships will be awarded annually to gifted students who demonstrate financial need. Dr. Nesbeth has also committed to monitoring the progress of each successful scholarship recipient.

Dr. Nesbeth is self-made and believes that the success of our community depends on its self-reliance. He is a staunch supporter of education and economic-self-sufficiency.

## Recipient Of The Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship



O'Shani Rerrie

O'Shani is in his second year of studies of Kinesiology and Psychology at York University. His hard work ethic and enthusiasm toward learning not only earned him straight A's, but also accolades from his professors. O'Shani spent his summer as a research assistant in the physics and atmospheric chemistry department. He also has found time to volunteer as an assistant teacher at the YMCA, and work with seniors at a nursing home. This well - rounded young man also enjoys participating in athletics such as football, track and field and rugby.



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## YAC Rising Star Scholarship

The Youth Affairs Committee (YAC) is the youth wing of the JCA, which strive to improve the quality of life for Afro/Caribbean Canadians.

YAC is comprised of a dedicated group of volunteers committed to the Personal, Social, Economical, Professional, and Cultural development of Black and Caribbean youth. Our mandate "Unified People Learning and Improving For Tomorrow (U.P.L.I.F.T) symbolizes our commitment to empower and educate youth, taking them to a new dimension. YAC serves as the critical median through which youth voices can be heard.

This scholarship will be awarded to an individual in post-secondary studies who exemplifies academic achievement, significant leadership ability and community service and involvement.

### The JCA Scholarship Fund

#### Help To Invest In The Future Of All Our Children!!!

- ➔ Donate \$1000 or more for a Scholarship in your name
- ➔ In lieu of a Birthday or Christmas present ask that a donation be made toward the Scholarship Fund in your name.
- ➔ Have a fundraising party in you home and donate the proceeds to the Scholarship Fund.
- ➔ Make a personal cash donation

## Recipient Of The Youth Affairs Rising Star Scholarship



Heather Kere

Heather has been described as a team – player with strong interpersonal and communication skills. She is working hard to pursue her Bachelor of Social Work degree at Ryerson University, and hopes to earn a Masters Degree afterwards. Heather plans to go directly into elementary and high schools to work with children in an educational setting. Her long – term goal is to open Youth Cultural Community centers across the G.T.A., and other parts of Ontario.

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## Terrie-Lynne Devonish



**Terrie-Lynne Devonish, is Executive Vice-President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc.**

Terrie-Lynne provides counsel to HSBC Securities, including its online brokerage division, HSBC InvestDirect, on a variety of issues including regulatory compliance, contracts, corporate governance, litigation and employment law. In addition, Terrie-Lynne is a member of HSBC Securities' Executive Committee, its Board of Directors and is responsible for all corporate secretarial matters. Terrie-Lynne obtained her BA in Political Science from Glendon College, York University in 1992 and her LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1995. After articling at the law firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain in Toronto in 1995/1996, Terrie-Lynne was an associate at the firm until 2000 when she joined HSBC Securities as Legal Counsel. Terrie-Lynne was promoted to her current position in July of 2002. Terrie-Lynne's volunteer work includes volunteering for the Harry Jerome Scholarship Fund, acting as a mentor for the Black Law Students of Canada and providing pro bono legal work to non-profit organizations with Volunteer Lawyers' Services. On a professional level, she is a member of the Corporate Counsel section of the Canadian Bar Association—Ontario and a member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers.

## *Welcome and Introduction*

*Mc.....Marcia Brown*

*National Anthems*

*Jamaica*

*Canada*

*President's Welcome,*

*David Griffiths*

*Grace*

*Dinner*

*Performance,*

*UMETA Dancers*

*Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

*Keynote Address*

*Terrie-Lynne Devonish*

*Vote of Thanks to Keynote Speaker*

*Saturday Morning Tutorial Program*

*Performance*

*Samantha Devi*

*Presentation of Awards*

*Performance,*

*Janielle Wright*

*Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks*

*Dancing*

# P r o g r a m



## Ryerson University Jamaican Canadian Association Scholarships

Ryerson University is pleased to provide two annual scholarships, for two students entering first year at Ryerson. The scholarships provide financial assistance and recognize outstanding students from the Caribbean/African community who have demonstrated academic excellence and made significant volunteer or leadership contributions to their schools or communities.

Ryerson University is known for its distinctive mixture of innovative, professionally relevant programs, and an educational experience that is built on the integration of theoretical and applied learning. Ryerson is a model of education that works.

Through its five Faculties—Arts, Business, Communication & Design, Community Services, and Engineering and Applied Science—today's Ryerson offers more than 50 career-oriented, full-time undergraduate and graduate programs. The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Canada's leader in university-based adult learning, provides students with unparalleled opportunities to pursue professional and personal enrichment and to re-tool for the changing economy.

Along with the scholarly, research and creative endeavours of its faculty, Ryerson is recognized for the quality of its graduates who leave the University ready to contribute to their profession, their community, and society.



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## Recipients Of The Ryerson University Scholarships



**Lawrencia Ntiri**

Lawrencia shines in two ways: as a recipient of the Ryerson Scholarship award, and as a member of the "Radiant Ladies" at her church. These "Ladies" form a mentoring group, which assist adolescent females. Lawrencia is self-directed. As well as teaching Sunday school, Lawrencia co-founded the Ghanaian-Canadian Educational Service Association of Canada (GCESAC), a non-profit organization dedicated to tutoring and mentoring young adults. Lawrencia is studying for her Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Public Health. She has already put her skill to work as a member of the York Region Health Services West Nile Virus Team.



**Megan McKenzie**

Megan credits her parents for instilling in her the strong desire of excellence in education. Her passion for helping those in need is evidenced by her volunteer work in a senior's home. She has also involved herself in community activities, acting as Ryerson University's African-Caribbean Committee event-coordinator. Megan is studying Environmental Health, and has dreams of becoming a public health inspector.



## Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning Scholarship

Sponsored by Humber College for a first year student attending that institution. Recognized for excellence and for the integrity of its programs since 1967, Humber College is one of only three colleges designated by the Ontario Government as an **Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning**. The College offers over 150 program options at the diploma, certificate, baccalaureate and post-graduate levels. Humber College is one of North America's preeminent colleges, receiving more applications than any other college in Ontario making it the top choice of students. At Humber, students gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed, from professors who are leaders in their fields and who care about their students' success. 89% of Humber graduates are employed within six months of graduating and 92% of employers who hired Humber graduates are pleased with their skills and performance in the workplace

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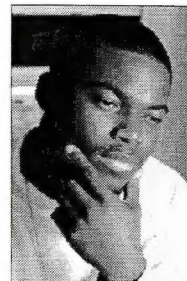
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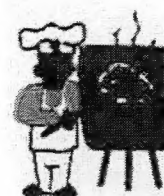
## Recipient of the Humber College Scholarship



**Eddie Amegah**

Eddie is currently enrolled in the Chef Training Program at the Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. On graduating from this program his goal is to pursue further studies in nutrition, which will qualify him to work in a Home for Seniors. His good academic standing is a testimonial to his desire to succeed.

Eddie has a passion for community participation and is therefore affiliated with various community organizations such as the Caribbean Cultural Society and the Ewe Culture Club. He also assists with coaching in the Brams United Soccer League.



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## Mary Anne Chambers MPP



**The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers** is the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities for the Province of Ontario.

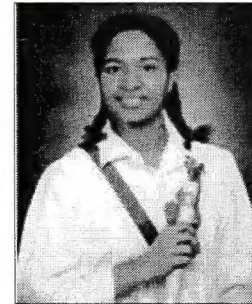
Mary Anne has long been an advocate for social responsibility, education, healthcare, and the advancement of women and minorities. Along with her family, she was featured in a Toronto Star article entitled Banker with heart profits community. Mary Anne retired as a Senior Vice-President of Scotiabank in December 2002, and was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough East, in October 2003.

Mary Anne has served as a Vice Chair of the Board of Rouge Valley Health System's Scarborough Centenary and Ajax-Pickering hospitals. She served on the Board of the United Way of Greater Toronto for seven years, and on the Board of the United Way of Canada for almost six years. Mary Anne is a Past Chair of the United Way of Canada. She has also served as a Governor of the Air Cadet League of Canada and is a Past President of the Canadian Club of Toronto.

Mary Anne served as a Governor of the University of Toronto for a period of nine years, and as Vice-Chair of the Governing Council for three years. Her work on a task force on Student Financial Support contributed to a policy, which guarantees that no student will be unable to study at the University of Toronto because of inadequate financial resources.

Mary Anne has received numerous awards for her community service. Among the most recent are the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth the Second, the Toronto Canada Day Achievement Award and the Prime Minister of Jamaica's Medal of Appreciation.

## Recipient Of The Mary Anne Chambers Scholarship



**Amaka Eneh**

Amaka's dreams of becoming a cardiac surgeon began in Gr.7, after watching a virtual surgeon perform a simulated bypass surgery. There is no doubt that this A+ student, (who happened to receive the Governor General's Academic Medal for achieving the highest average upon graduating from secondary school), has the potential to become whatever she wishes. She balanced her study time with being a member of a gospel choir, and volunteering at the Trillium Health Centre. Amaka is currently in her first year of studies in the Life Sciences program at the University of Toronto.

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# THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

## I Have a Dream Scholarship

Sponsored by the Jamaican Canadian Association to assist students with significant personal achievements beyond scholastic ability. This includes personal accomplishments in spite of adversity.

## Marcus Mosiah Garvey Scholarship

Sponsored by the JCA to increase awareness of Afro-Canadians of the life, philosophy and work of Marcus Garvey. This includes his goals of universal independence and positive development of the Black Race.

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## Recipient Of The JCA Marcus Garvey Scholarship



**Yanique Williams**

Yanique is currently in her first year of studies at Queen's University. She is working towards a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree through the Political Science Honours program. Yanique has a wide range of interests, which include competing in track and field and basketball, volunteering in the "Youth Assisting Youth" mentoring program, and being an active member in her church's Youth Leader program. The strong communication skills she possesses should prove invaluable as she pursues her dream of becoming an attorney.

## Recipient Of The JCA I Have a Dream Scholarship



**Camille Williams**

Camille attributes the solid foundation of her education to the schools she attended in Spanish Town, and Kingston Jamaica. She stood in exceptionally high academic status, and balanced her studies with involvement in extra-curricular activities such as gymnastics, the school orchestra, and sign language class to name a few. Upon her arrival in Canada, she has not slowed down with her community involvement, volunteering her time with the Cardiac Diagnostic Program at the Rouge Valley Health System. Camille wishes to exercise her passion for discovering new things, and aspires to become a biomedical engineer. She is currently studying Engineering Science at the University of Toronto.



## Menu

Soup

Salad

Chicken.....Baked/ Jerk

Curried Goat

Veggie Pasta Medley

Mixed Vegetables

Rice & Kidney Beans.....Steamed Rice

Fruit Salad

Banana Bread (no nuts)

Pineapple Upside-down Cake

Coffee or Tea

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**The lawyers and staff of Torys LLP are proud to support the JCA Scholarship Fund and congratulate the scholarship award recipients on their outstanding achievements.**

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